

# (12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 299 203 (13) A

(43) Date of A Publication 25.09.1996

(21) Application No 9605822.7

(22) Date of Filing 20.03.1996

(30) Priority Data

(31) 951052

(32) 20.03.1995

(33) NO

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(51) INT CL<sup>6</sup>

**H01S 3/06 , G01L 11/02**

(52) UK CL (Edition O )

**H1C CCA C268 C270 C35Y C363 C392 C403 C41Y C414  
C415 C42X C42Y C48Y C491 C498 C499 C532 C538  
C569 C583 C59Y C739 C78Y C783**

**G1A AA5 ABF AG18 AR7**

**U1S S2150 S2169**

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**WO 95/31020 A**

**US 5166940 A**

(58) Field of Search

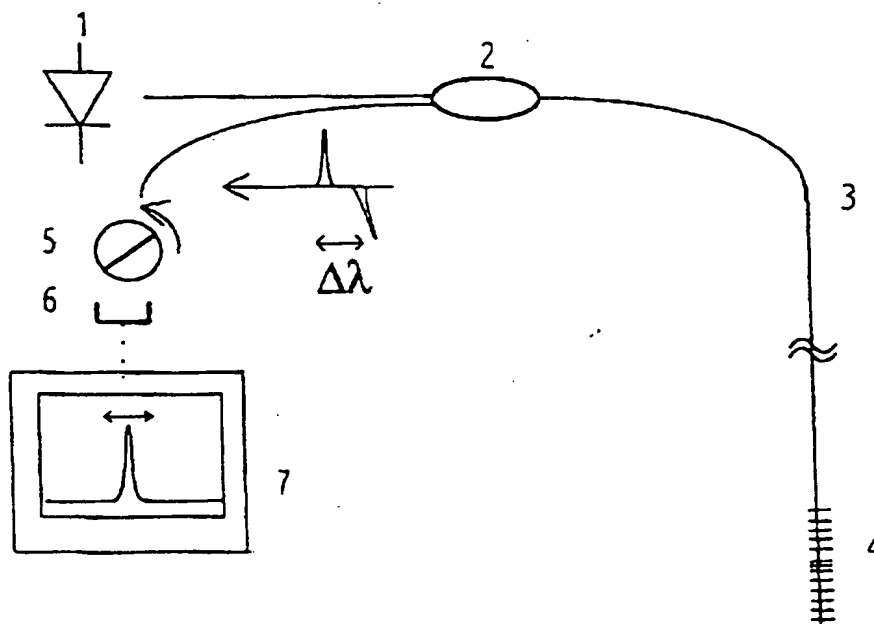
**UK CL (Edition O ) G1A ABF ACFG ADRG , H1C CCA**

**INT CL<sup>6</sup> G01L 11/02 , H01S 3/06**

**online: WPI, INSPEC**

(54) DFB fibre lasers

(57) A DFB fibre laser 4 doped with one or more rare-earths is provided with distributed feedback via a fibre Bragg-grating, which gives rise to only two orthogonally polarised wavelengths. The separation between the wavelengths may be tuned by changing the birefringence of the fibre, the beat frequency being detected by a polarizer 5, photodetector 6 and frequency analyzer 7. The laser may be applied as a polarimetric sensor in which an asymmetrical force changes the wavelength separation, or as a tunable two-wavelength source. A particular preferred field of application is for measuring the pressure in pipes, to determine the flow.



**Fig.2a**

At least one drawing originally filed was informal and the print reproduced here is taken from a later filed formal copy.

This print takes account of replacement documents submitted after the date of filing to enable the application to comply with the formal requirements of the Patents Rules 1995

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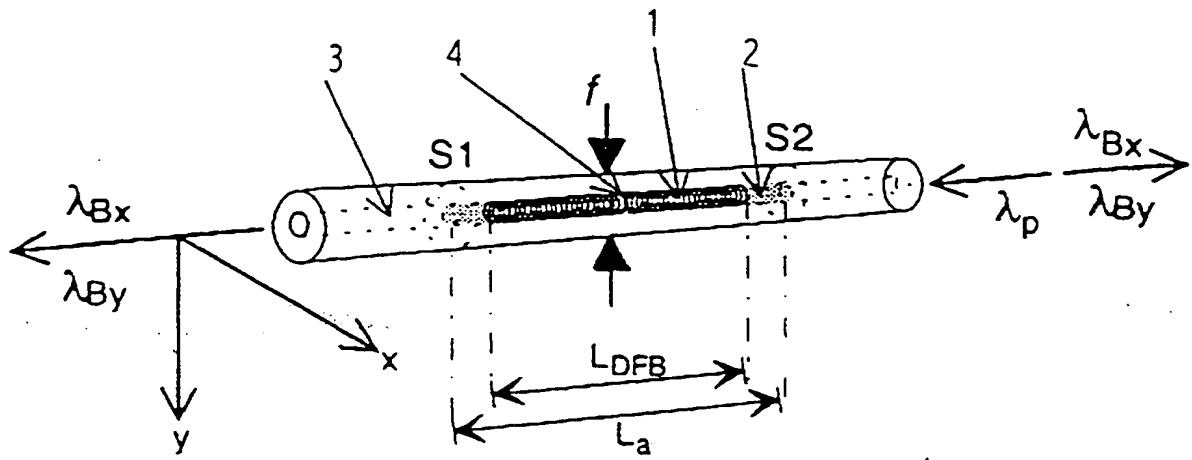


Fig.1a

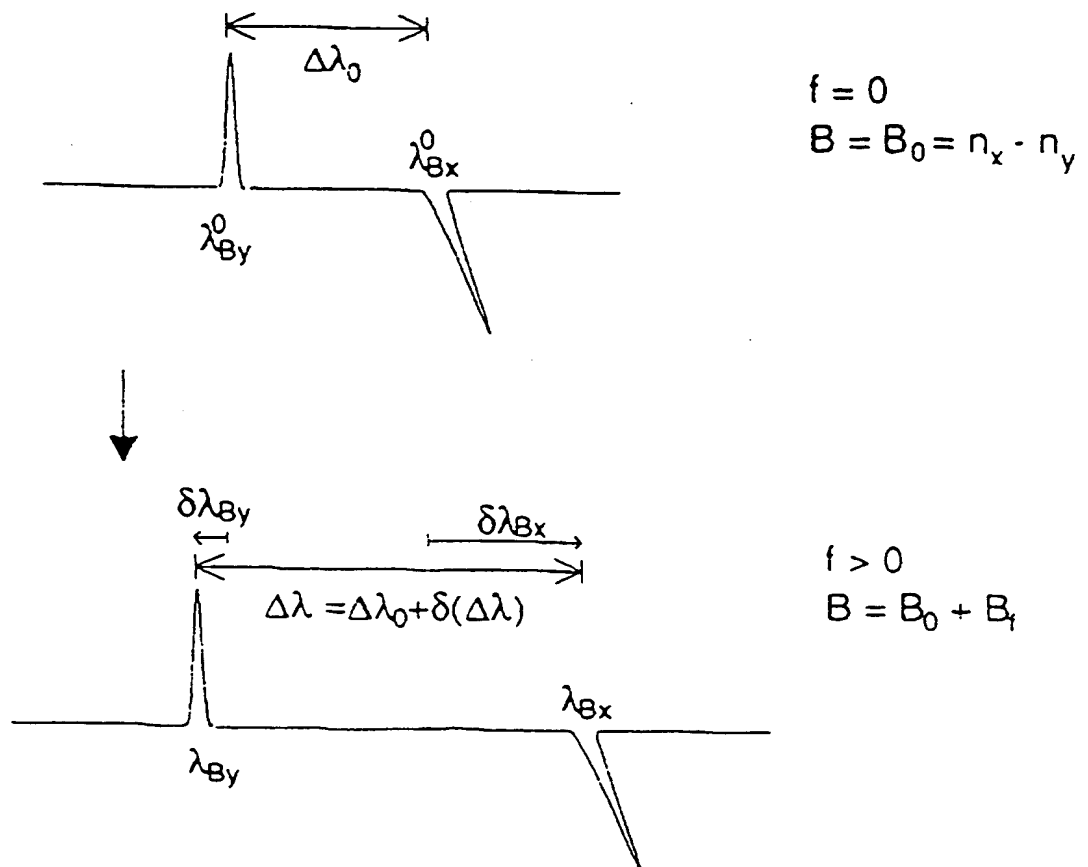


Fig.1b

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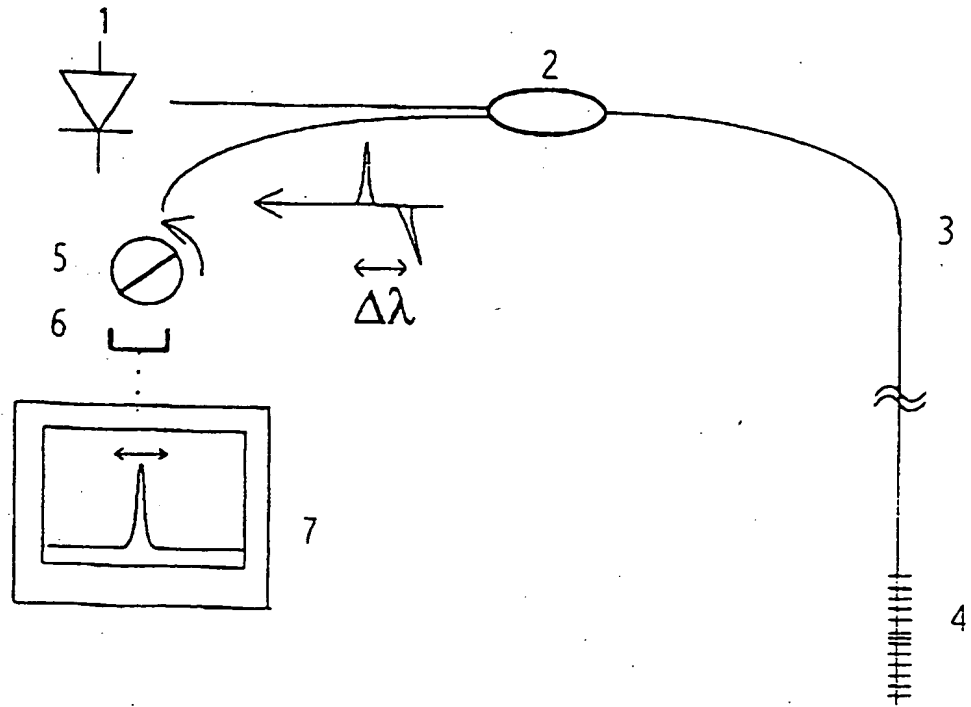


Fig.2a

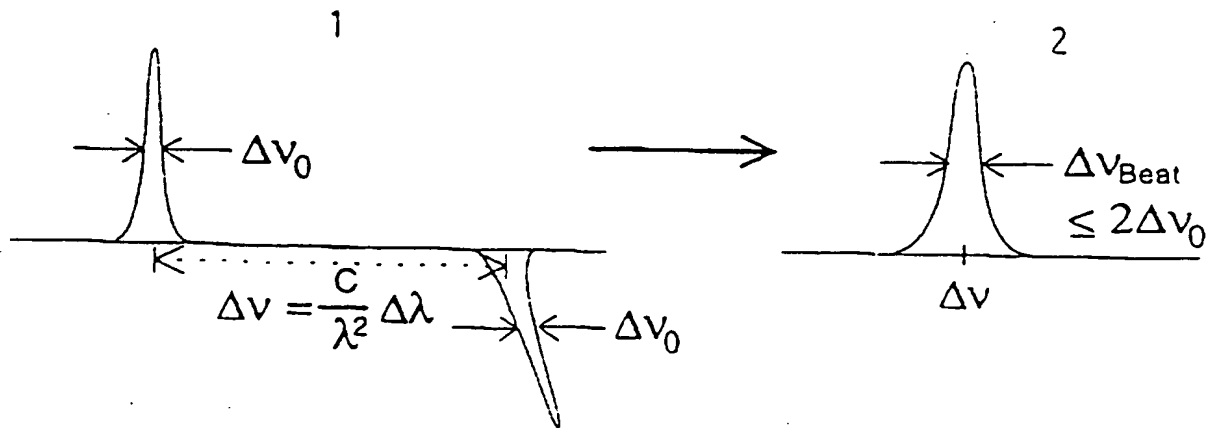
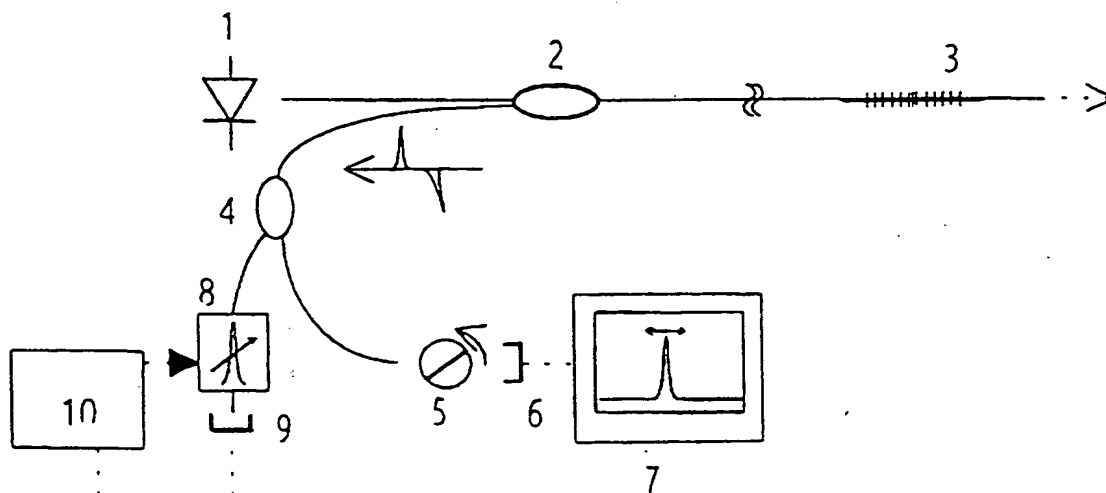
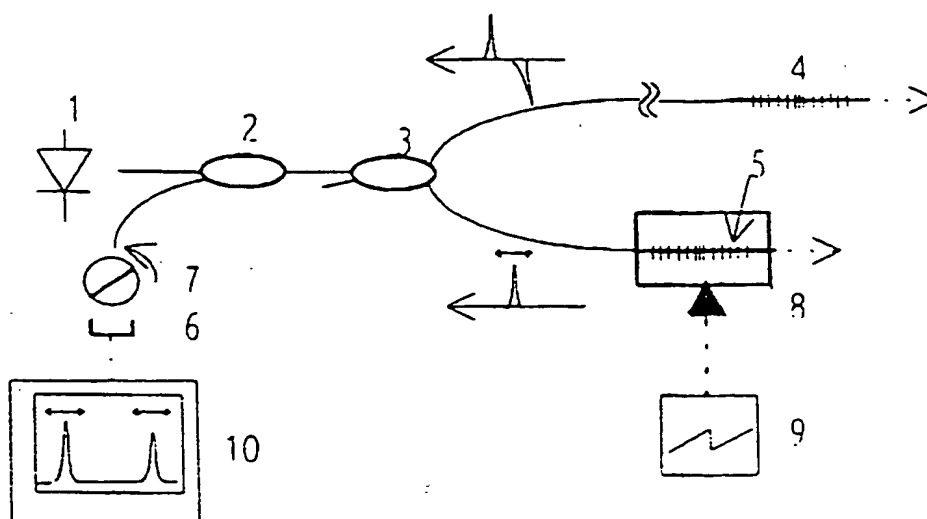


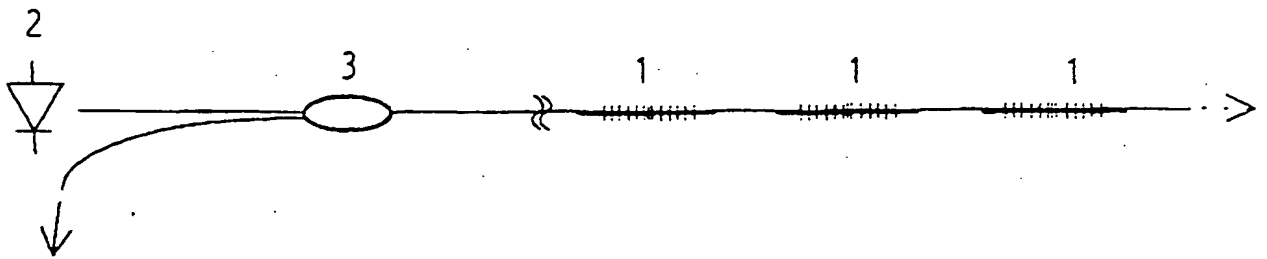
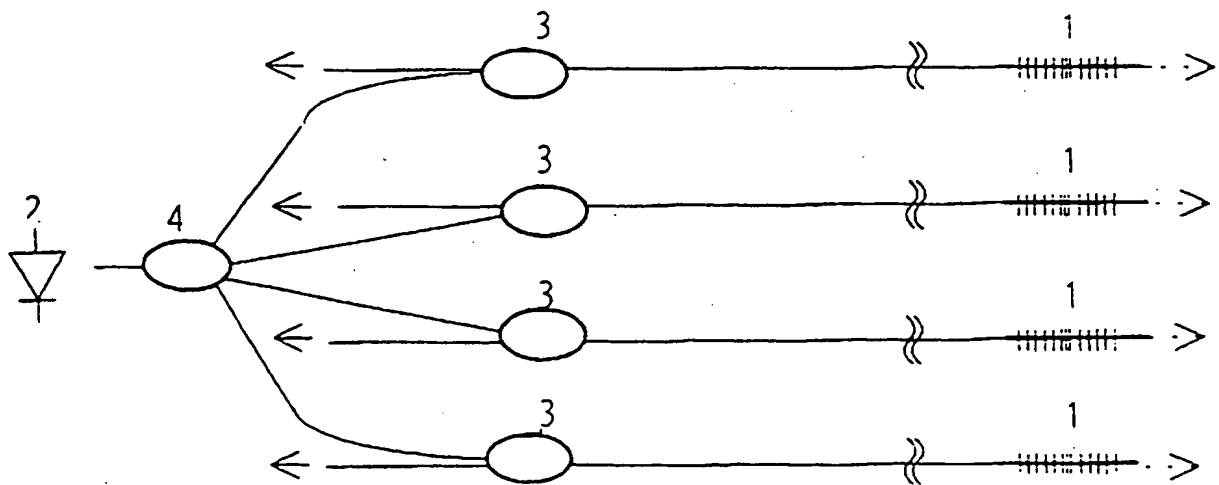
Fig.2b



**Fig.3a**



**Fig.3b**

**Fig.4a****Fig.4b**

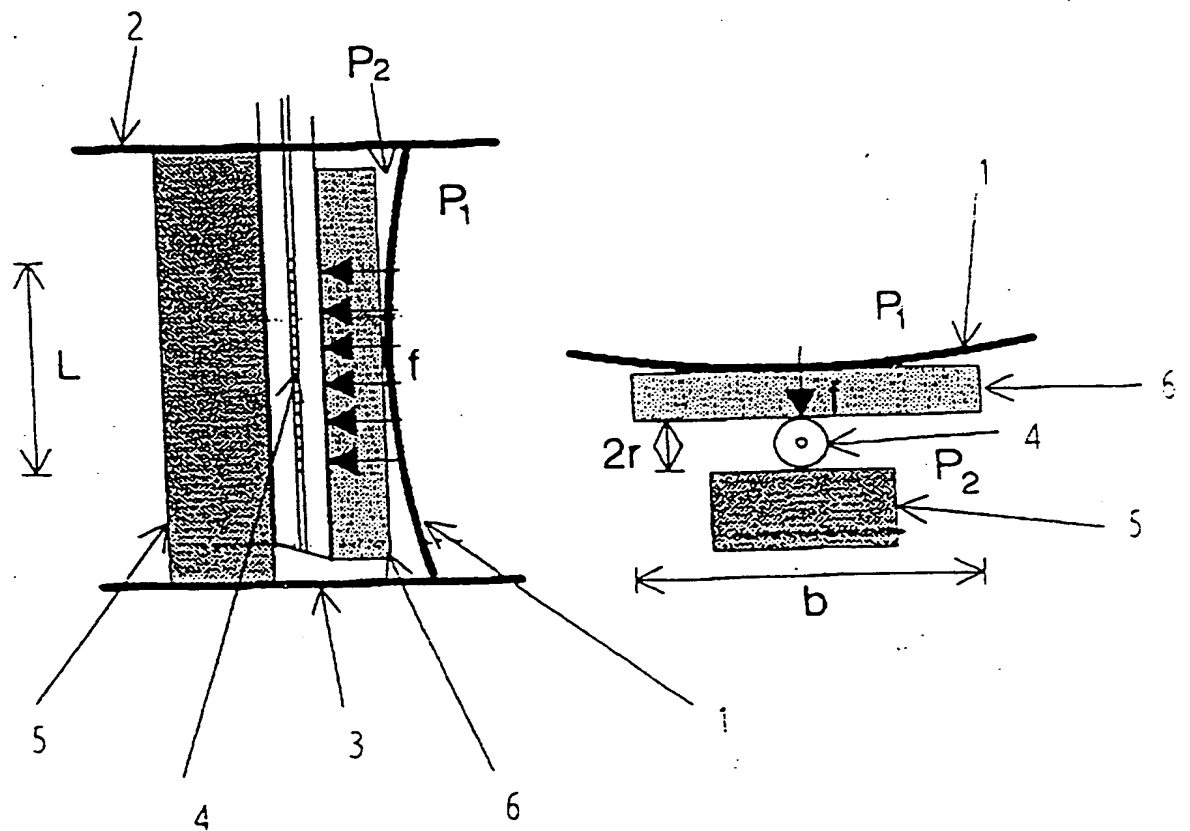


Fig.5.

### Background

This invention relates to an optical end-pumped fibre laser, doped with one or more rare earth ions and with distributed feedback provided by one single fibre Bragg grating, which oscillates at two orthogonally polarised wavelengths.

A patent application for a rare-earth doped fibre laser with distributed feedback (fibre DFB laser) was recently filed [UK Patent Application No. 9409033.9, filed 6 May 1994, and PCT/GB95/01026], and experimental results are later published [J.T. Kringlebotn, J.-L. Archambault, L. Reekie, D.N. Payne, "Er<sup>3+</sup>:Yb<sup>3+</sup>-codoped fibre distributed-feedback laser," Optics Letters, Vol. 19, pp. 2101-2103, 1994]. When end-pumped by an optical source (typically a semiconductor laser) such a fibre DFB laser will, with an optical phase-shift of  $\pi$  in the fibre Bragg grating, oscillate at two orthogonally polarised wavelengths only (see Kringlebotn et. al. 1994). These two (Bragg) wavelengths are given by:

$$\lambda_{Bx} = 2n_x \Lambda \quad (1a)$$

and

$$\lambda_{By} = 2n_y \Lambda \quad (1b)$$

where  $n_x$  and  $n_y$  are the effective refractive indices of the two orthogonal polarisation eigenstates  $x$  and  $y$  of the fibre laser, and  $L$  is the physical period (pitch) of the fibre Bragg grating. The wavelength separation  $\Delta\lambda = \lambda_{Bx} - \lambda_{By}$ , is given by:

$$\Delta\lambda = 2B\Lambda \quad (2)$$

where the birefringence  $B$  of the fibre is defined as  $B =$

$$n_x - n_y.$$

A change in the birefringence  $B$  and/or the grating pitch, i.e. the fibre length, results in a change in  $\Delta\lambda$ ,  
5  $d(\Delta\lambda)$ , such that

$$\frac{\delta(\Delta\lambda)}{\Delta\lambda} = \frac{\delta B}{B} + \varepsilon \quad (3)$$

where  $\varepsilon = \delta L/L = \delta\lambda/\lambda$  is the fibre strain.  $L$  is the length  
10 of the fibre laser. It is known that the birefringence of an optical fibre can be changed by squeezing, bending or twisting the fibre.

Several fibre optic sensors based on so-called DBR (distributed Bragg-reflector) fibre lasers with two  
15 fibre Bragg grating end-reflectors, or one grating and one broadband mirror, have been demonstrated [A.D. Kersey, K.P. Koo, and M.A. Davis, "Fiber optic Bragg grating laser sensors," Proceedings SPIE, Vol. 2292, 1994]. This was done either by using the lasers for  
20 wavelength interrogation of passive fibre Bragg grating sensors, or by employing the lasers as the sensor elements themselves. In all these sensors one measures the Bragg wavelength of one or more fibre grating sensors, and the sensors have the advantage (over passive grating  
25 sensors interrogated by broadband sources) that all optical power is concentrated within the grating bandwidth (with a signal bandwidth potentially much narrower than the grating bandwidth), such that the sensor system can provide high, optically limited, signal-to-noise  
30 ratios. By employing the fibre laser itself as the sensor element (remotely pumped by a semiconductor laser), the emitted laser wavelength will be proportional to the measurand, and the need for a tuneable interrogation laser is eliminated. This enables an very high  
35 resolution, a fast response, and enables wavelength



multiplexing of many sensors. Such a fibre Bragg grating laser sensor can either be operated multi moded (laser length  $L \gg 5\text{cm}$ ), where the optical signal bandwidth is limited by the grating bandwidth (10-100GHz), or single  
5 moded ( $L < 5\text{cm}$ ), where the linewidth is typically 1-500kHz. This implies that single mode operation provides the highest resolution.

In all these sensors the wavelength(s) of one or more fibre Bragg gratings are measured, which requires a  
10 system for accurate readout of the wavelength(s). This can often be difficult to realise (for a required accuracy). A different, simple and elegant approach, based on a dual wavelength DBR fibre laser with two fibre Bragg grating end-reflectors, was recently demonstrated [G.A.  
15 Ball, G. Meltz, and W.W. Morey, "Polarimetric heterodyning Bragg-grating fiber-laser sensor", Optics Letters, Vol. 18, pp. 1976-1978, 1993]. In this laser sensor the separation between the two fibre Bragg gratings was made small ( $< 5\text{cm}$ ), such that the number of oscillating long-  
20 itudinal modes were reduced to two orthogonally polarised wavelengths (which belonged to neighbouring longitudinal orders).

In this dual-mode DBR fibre laser sensor the wavelength separation is measured, which in addition to the  
25 laser length and fibre birefringence, depends on the relative phase of the two wavelengths upon reflection for the two grating end-reflectors, and also on the longitudinal order of each of the polarisation modes. By sending the laser light through a polariser the two  
30 wavelengths can mix in a detector and generate an electrical beat signal with frequency equal to the optical frequency separation between the two wavelengths (typically 0.5-50GHz). Hence, a very simple, accurate and fast electronic readout of the separation, and hence the  
35 measurand which affects the fibre laser, is obtained.

The optical linewidth of each of the two modes in the DBR laser demonstrated by Ball et.al. was very narrow (a factor  $10^{-7}$ - $10^{-3}$ ) compared to the wavelength separation. Hence a sensor based on such a laser will have a very high resolution and a wide dynamic range.

The DBR fibre laser reported by Ball et. al. was used as a strain sensor, i.e. the wavelength separation was changed by applying a strain to the fibre laser (the two gratings and the doped fibre in-between), but it was mentioned that all perturbations which change the cavity length or the birefringence will give rise to a change in wavelength separation, and hence beat frequency.

The problem with this dual polarisation mode DBR fibre laser sensor (and single mode DBR fibre laser based on measuring the wavelength) is that it consists of two separate fibre gratings and a fibre section in-between, which need to be exposed equally to and have the same response to the measurand to obtain a correct measurement and avoid mode hopping (uncontrolled shifts of longitudinal mode) or ceasing of laser action. The two gratings should also have the same Bragg wavelength and birefringence.

A central problem of all fibre optic sensors, including sensors based on fibre Bragg gratings, is to separation between two measurands, for instance pressure and temperature, or strain and temperature. Fibre Bragg grating sensors are, as mentioned above, normally based on measuring induced shifts in Bragg wavelength. Since both (for instance) pressure, strain and temperature variations induce shifts in Bragg wavelength will not a measurement of the reflected Bragg wavelength from a sensor grating separate between to different measurands. A series of methods have been proposed to solve this problem, for instance by using two gratings with different response to one (or both) of the measurands, or by

employing two overlapping gratings with different Bragg wavelengths, and hence different response, but so far this problem has not been satisfactorily solved with only one fibre Bragg grating.

5        In various interferometric fibre optic sensors it is desirable to use two sources with different wavelength and tuneable wavelength separation, or ideally one source with two wavelengths and tuneable wavelength separation, (for instance) to ensure so-called quadrature operation at all times, or alternatively to increase the linear (unambiguous) measuring range. It is also known that two stable wavelengths can be employed for generation of a beat signal which through non-linear propagation in a dispersion profiled fibre will develop into a pulse train with tuneable (and stable) pulse repetition frequency equal to the optical frequency separation between the two wavelengths. This is demonstrated with two coupled fibre lasers, with four fibre Bragg gratings and two different wavelengths, in series along the same fibre [S.V. Chernikov, J.R. Taylor, and R. Kashyap, "Integrated all optical fibre source of multigigahertz soliton pulse train", Electronics Letters, Vol. 29, pp. 1788-1789, 1993].

## 25    Objects

      The main object of the invention is to provide an end-pumped fibre laser which can be employed as sensor for measurement of a measurand, for instance pressure, independently of other parameters, for instance temperature, or for measurement of two independent measurands, for instance pressure and temperature.

      In particular it is the object to provide a fibre optic sensor based on a fibre Bragg grating which can measure pressure, for instance in cells for flow measurements, without being affected by changes in tempera-

ture.

Another object is to obtain a means for using an end-pumped fibre laser, as mentioned above, as a source with two orthogonal wavelengths with tuneable separation  
5 between the two orthogonal wavelengths.

Addition objects for the invention will become clear from the following part of the description.

#### Invention

10 The invention is described in Claim 1, with Claim 2-8 stating especially advantageous characteristics.

By means which primarily changes the fibre birefringence B a DFB fibre laser with tuneable/adjustable separation between the two orthogonal wavelengths can be  
15 constructed. The invention is particularly interesting as a sensor, where the measurand (external perturbation) induces a birefringence in the fibre, for instance through an asymmetric, transverse force on the fibre, such that the measurand, for instance pressure (or  
20 differential pressure) can be determined by measuring the wavelength separation. In a preferred embodiment this is done by mixing the two wavelengths in a photo detector resulting in a measurable electrical beat frequency. Notice that any measurands which introduces a  
25 change in fibre birefringence (or effective refractive index), or a change in fibre laser length, can be measured by the proposed fibre laser sensor.

When a measurand induces a birefringence in the fibre laser, another measurand, which does not (or to a  
30 small extent) induces such a birefringence, for instance temperature or strain, can be measured, since in such a case the wavelength separation, which is proportional to the birefringence, and the two orthogonal wavelengths, which are proportional to the refractive indices along  
35 the two orthogonal eigenaxes, will have different

dependence on the two measurands. Hence, by measuring both the wavelength separation and one of the wavelength (or by measuring both wavelength) both the two independent measurands can be determined.

5       The wavelength separation will also depend on the laser cavity length, which is affected by for instance temperature and strain. The sensor can, however, be constructed such that changes in wavelength separation owing to changes in for instance temperature and strain  
10 becomes small compared to changes which are caused by changes in the measurand inducing the birefringence, and which one primarily are interested in measuring. Hence, the invention employed as a sensor can to a great extent separate between two different measurands, for instance  
15 pressure and temperature, and hence in many cases make temperature compensation in pressure measurements (which for many other sensors are necessary) unnecessary.

      The invention also concerns a DFB fibre laser source with tuneable separation between the two orthogo-  
20 nal wavelengths. Such a source can for instance be employed as a dual-wavelength source for interferometric fibre optic sensors, where two wavelengths with correct separation can ensure quadrature operation or alternatively increase the linear (unambiguous) dynamic range.  
25 In particular will such a source be applicable in polarimetric interferometric sensors, since the two wavelengths have orthogonal polarisation states. The laser can also be employed as a depolarised source. The tuneable dual-wavelength DFB fibre laser can also be used  
30 for generating a beat signal which through non-linear propagation in a dispersion profiled fibre develops into a pulse train with tuneable (and potentially very stable) pulse repetition frequency equal to the frequency separation between the polarisation modes. The  
35 proposed dual-wavelength source has the advantage of

requiring only one single fibre Bragg grating.

**Example**

5 The invention is described with reference to the illustrations, in which

Fig. 1a shows a section of a DFB laser on which a transversal force is applied,

Fig. 1b shows the effect of this force on the optical spectrum of the laser,

10 Fig. 2a shows schematically a sensor system with a method for reading the wavelength separation  $\Delta\lambda$ ,

Fig. 2b shows the connection between optical spectrum and electrical beat-spectrum,

15 Fig. 3a shows schematically a method of reading both the wavelength separation  $\Delta\lambda$  and the absolute value of one of the Bragg-wavelengths,

Fig. 3b shows schematically a method for reading both Bragg-wavelengths,

20 Fig. 4a and 4B shows schematically how several DFB-lasers may be arranged in series respectively in parallel, to achieve multiplexing,

Fig. 5 shows schematically a method for measuring the differential pressure by the tuneable double wavelength laser.

25 Fig. 1a shows a fiber DFB laser with the length  $L_{DFB}$ , which is the length of the fiber Bragg-grating 1 engraved into the core of the active fibre with a length  $L_a$ , which is a single mode optical fibre doped with one or more rare earths 2. This fibre is in the preferred  
30 embodiment welded to a single mode optical communication fibre 3 with connections S1 and S2. The fibre Bragg-grating contains at least one phase change 4 to achieve interference on only one wavelength (single frequency operation) in each of the orthogonal polarization states  
35 of the fibre laser, which at a preferred optical phase

change of  $90^\circ$  is equal to the Bragg wavelength of the fibre grating (center wavelength). At optical end-pump-  
ing of the DFB fibre laser with a wavelength  $\lambda_p$  the  
laser effect may be obtained at the two wavelengths  $\lambda_{sx}$   
5 and  $\lambda_{sy}$ , provided by the equation 1a) and 1b). It should  
be noted that the laser is emitting in both directions,  
enabling the use as sensor, for reflection and transmis-  
sion as well.

The wavelength separation is proportional to the  
10 birefringence  $B$  ( $n_x - n_y$  ( $n_x < n_y$ ), wherein  $n_x$  and  $n_y$   
are the effective refractive indices of the fibre laser  
along the so called rapid and slow polarization axis,  
respectively  $x$  and  $y$  axis in Fig. 1a. The wavelength  
separation can be tuned by changing the birefringence  
15 (or the length of the fibre), see equation 3). By pres-  
suring the fibre in the  $y$ -direction with a force per  
unit of length,  $f$ , a positive birefringence  $B_f$  is  
induced, which for a uniform fibre equals:

$$20 \quad B_f = \frac{4Cf}{\pi r} \quad (4)$$

in which  $r$  is the fibre radius and  $C$  is the optical  
coefficient of stretch. The force should be enacted  
25 along one of the polarization axes of the fibre laser  
( $y$ -axis in Fig. 1a).

The change of the optical spectrum due to a force  
per unit of length,  $f$ , on the DFB fibre laser is shown  
in Fig. 1b. The birefringence is changed from  $B_0$  till  $B_0$   
30  $+ B_f$ , which results in the change of  $\lambda_{sy}^0$  with  $\delta\lambda_{sy}$ , while  
 $\lambda_{sx}^0$  is changed  $+\delta\lambda_{sx}$ , to change  $\Delta\lambda_0$  with  $\delta(\Delta\lambda)$ . It may be  
shown that  $|\delta\lambda_{sx}| = (5.5 |\delta\lambda_{sy}|)$ .

Fig. 2a shows schematically the sensor system with  
a method for reading the wavelength separation  $\Delta\lambda$ .  
35 Pumped light from a diode laser 1 is transmitted through

a wavelength multiplexer 2 via a transmission fibre 3, which may have a length of several kilometres, to the DFB fibre laser sensor 4, in which the received pump power provide an emittance of light (in both directions) on the wavelengths  $\lambda_{Bx}$  and  $\lambda_{By}$  with separation  $\Delta\lambda$ . The reflected laser light is sent through the wavelength multiplexer 2 through a linear polarisator 5 to mix said two wavelengths in a detector 6 and generate an electrical beat signal with a frequency equal to the optical frequency separation of the wavelengths. The polarisator should be able to change the orientation, e.g. by changing between two orientations with difference  $45^\circ$  to provide the beat signal at any time. The beat frequency is measured with an electrical frequency analyzer or frequency counter 7.

Fig. 2b shows the connection between an optical spectrum 1) and an electrical beat spectrum 2). The orthogonal modes each have an optical line width  $\Delta\nu_0$ , while the frequency distance between the modes,  $\Delta\nu$ , is equal to  $c\Delta\lambda/\lambda^2$ , in which  $c$  is the velocity of light in vacuum and  $\lambda$  is the average laser wavelength. The electrical beat spectrum has a center frequency equal to  $\Delta\nu$  and a bandwidth  $\Delta\nu_{beat}$  which is less than or equal to  $2\Delta\nu_0$ .

Fig. 3a shows schematically a method for reading both the wavelength separation  $\Delta\lambda$  and the absolute value of one for the Bragg wavelengths. In Fig. 3a pumped light is also sent from a diode laser 1 through a wavelengths multiplexer 2 to a sensor 3. The reflected laser light is split by a 1x2 coupler 4, in which a part is used to measure  $\Delta\lambda$  by sending laser light through a linear polarizer 5, mixing said two wavelengths in a detector 6 and generating an electrical beat signal with a frequency equal to the optical frequency separation between the wavelengths, which is measured by an elec-



trical frequency analyzer 7. The second part of the laser light is transmitted through a tunable, polarization independent optical transmission filter 8, into a detector 9. The filter is scanned in wavelength or locked to one of the laser wavelengths  $\lambda_{sx}$  or  $\lambda_{sy}$  by a feedback loop 10.

Fig. 3 b shows an alternative heterodyne demodulation technique, by which the light from the pumped laser 1 is transferred through a wavelength multiplexer 2 and is split by a 1x2 coupler 3 for additionally pumping the sensor laser 4 and also to pump a reference laser 5, which is provided to operate in one wavelength. The light from the reference laser 5 is mixed with the light from the sensor laser 4 in a detector, also with a polarizer 7 and by adjusting the reference laser continuously over a wavelength range covering the dynamic range of the sensor laser wavelength. The reference laser can be tuned e.g. by stretching the grating with a piezoelectrical fibre stretcher 8 operated by a ramp signal from a signal generator 9. The beat frequency provided between the reference laser wavelength and the two wavelengths  $\lambda_{sx}$  and  $\lambda_{sy}$  of the sensor laser is measured with a frequency analyzer 10 and by knowing the wavelength of the reference laser as a function of the fibre stretch,  $\lambda_{sx}$  and  $\lambda_{sy}$  may be determined with great accuracy due to the narrow line width of the fibre lasers. A DFB fibre laser sensor in which only one of the two polarization modes is lasing, may be designed. A laser of this kind may also be used as sensor, by measuring one of the emitted wavelengths as a measure for e.g. the fibre stretch.

More DFB fibre laser sensors 1 (or sources) can be multiplexed in series along one fibre, as shown in Fig. 4a, or parallel in different fibres as shown in Fig. 4b. In both cases, the lasers can be pumped with only one pump

source 2, wherein the pump light is introduced into the fibre lasers via wavelength multiplexers 3. In Fig. 4b the pump light is split between the different lasers by a 1xN fibre coupler 4, in which N is the number of parallel fibres. The configuration of Figs. 4a and 4b can be combined. With DFB fibre lasers in series (Fig. 4a) it is important that the wavelength of the different lasers never overlap. The laser light may be uncoupled in both directions.

10        A lateral force along one of the polarization axes of the fibre will induce a birefringence. Fig. 5 shows schematically a method in which the tunable two wavelength laser is used for measurement of differential pressure  $\Delta P = P_1 - P_2$ . This is of importance, e.g. for  
15        flow measurements.  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  are hydrostatic pressures on different sides of a membrane 1 which is suspended between two walls 2 and 3. The fibre laser 4 with length  $L$  is arranged on one side of the membrane 1, and pinched between the membrane 1 and a fixed bar/disk 5 which is  
20        attached to the walls 2 and 3. This introduces a transversal force on the fiberlaser 4 which ideally is proportional to  $\Delta P$ . To achieve a uniform force per unit of length  $f$  along the total fiberlaser, a movable disk 6 with a length  $>L$  and width  $b$  is arranged between the  
25        membrane 1 and the fiberlaser 4. Alternatively the disk 6 is attached to the membrane 1. It may be assumed that  $f=kb\Delta P$ , in which  $k$  is a pressure-to-force transfer constant. The membrane 1 is assumed to have a stress in its non-activated condition ( $\Delta P=0$ ) which provides birefringence  $B_0$  in the fibre laser, and that the differential pressure provides birefringence  $B_f$  with the same axes as  $B_0$ , wherein  $B_f$  is given by the equation 4).

30        The sensitivity of the sensor,  $S$ , is defined as shift in the beat frequency  $\delta(\Delta\nu)$  per change in the differential pressure,  $\delta(\Delta P)$ , and may be expressed as:  
35

$$S = \frac{\delta(\Delta v)}{\delta(\Delta P)} = \frac{c}{n\lambda} \frac{4kbC}{\pi r}$$

5    wherein  $n$  and  $\lambda$  are average indices of birefringence and  
laser wavelength. For  $k=1$ ,  $2r=125\mu$ ,  $C=3,11*10^{12} \text{ m}^2 / \text{N}$  and  
 $\lambda = 1,55 \mu\text{m}$ , the sensitivity  $S$  will typically be 1-  
10MHZ/mbar for  $b=1-10 \text{ mm}$ . The differential pressure  
resolution of the sensor  $2\Delta V_{\text{beat}}/S$ , with the unit mbar.  
10    With a typical beat bandwidth  $\Delta V_{\text{beat}} < 100\text{kHz}$ , and  $b=10\text{mm}$ ,  
the resolution will be better than 0,01 mbar. This will  
also be the resolution at a measurement of absolute  
pressure  $P_2$  when  $P_1$  is known.

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Claims:

1. Method for application of an optical fibre laser with distributed feed back via a fibre Bragg-grating in the fibre core (DFB fibre laser), comprising an amplifying optical fibre doped with one or more rare-earths, in which the grating is arranged on at least a part of the amplifying fibre to achieve distributed feed back, and in which, with at least one phase-discontinuity in the grating, the laser effect only operates on two wavelengths,  $\lambda_{sx}$  and  $\lambda_{sy}$ , with orthogonale polarisation modes, or only one of said wavelengths if the other wavelength is suppressed characterized in that the fiber laser, or particularly the fiber core in which the light is transferred and the grating is provided, is exposed to an external perturbation, including pressure, stretch and temperature, which changes the effective indices of birefringence of the laser mode or the length of the fibre laser and thus alters the laser wavelengths.
2. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the fiber laser core is exposed to an asymmetrical transverse force, including a perturbation which induces a birefringence in the fibre, and including a stretch changing the wavelength difference between  $\lambda_{sx}$  and  $\lambda_{sy}$ .
3. Method according to Claim 1, for measurements, characterized in that the parameter to be measured induces an asymmetrical, transversal force against the fiber, causing a birefringence or stretch in the fibre and thus a measurable change of the wavelength difference between  $\lambda_{sx}$  and  $\lambda_{sy}$ , or a shift in absolute laser wavelength for a laser with only one wavelength, or both wavelengths for a laser oscillating on both orthogonal polarisations modes.
4. Method according to Claim 1, in which the fibre laser is applied as a source with two othogonally polarized wavelengths, characterized in that a con-

trolled asymmetrical traverse force against the fire controls the wavelength difference between  $\lambda_{By}$  and  $\lambda_{Bx}$  through birefringence.

- 5     5. Fibre optical end fed fibre laser (DFB fibre laser) for conducting of the method of Claims 1-4, particularly as a sensor for measurements, characterized in that it is arranged for measuring of the distance between the orthogonal Bragg wavelengths  $\lambda_{Bx}$  and  $\lambda_{By}$ , which are created when birefringence is generated in the laser, or  
10    the fibre is stretched and/or provided for measuring of absolute laser wavelength for a laser with only one wavelength or average wavelength, or both wavelengths for a laser oscillating on both orthogonal polarisation modes.
- 15    6. Fibre optical laser according to Claim 5, provided for use as a sensor in measurements, characterized in that it is provided for asymmetrical transversal pressure depending on the parameter to be measured, to induce double refraction in the laser.
- 20    7. Fibre optical laser according to Claim 5 or 6, characterized in that it is provided to measure simultaneously of two different parameters, e.g. pressure and temperature, by measuring the distance  $\Delta\lambda$  between the wavelengths and the absolute value of one (or both)  
25    individual Bragg wavelengths  $\lambda_{Bx}$  and  $\lambda_{By}$ .
8. Fibre optical laser according to one of the Claims 5, 6 or 7, characterized in that several sensor elements are serially multiplexed along one fibre or in parallel in different fibres (Fig. 4a, 4b).
- 30    9. Fibre optical laser according to Claim 5, characterized in that it is provided to be used as an optical source with two orthogonal wavelengths, in one array.
10. Fibre optical laser according to Claim 5, characterized in that it is provided for use as a reading  
35    means for interferometrical sensors generally, and

polarometric sensors specially, in which said two wavelengths has an adjustable separation and may ensure quadrature operation.

5 11. Fibre optical laser according to Claim 5, characterized in that it is used as a source for generating a beat signal, which by non-linear propagation in a dispersion-profiled fibre is developed into a pulse train with adjustable frequency of repetition equal the frequency separation between the modes of polarization.

10 12. Fibre optical laser according to Claim 5, characterized in that it is provided with a device for transferring the desired external impact to a change in the double refraction of the fibre laser, and thus wavelength separation between the orthogonal modes of the  
15 laser.

13. Fibre optical laser according to Claim 5, characterized in that the wall pressure of a pipe is introduced as a radial force against the fibre, to measure the flow of the pipe.  
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Office  
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Application No: GB 9605822.7  
Claims searched: all

Examiner: Martyn Dixon  
Date of search: 7 May 1996

## Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

### Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:  
UK CI (Ed.O): H1C (CCA); G1A (ABF,ACFG,ADRG)  
Int CI (Ed.6): H01S (3/06); G01L (11/02)  
Other: online: WPI,INSPEC

### Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
A	WO 95/31020 A (University of Southampton) the whole document	1
X	US 5166940 A (Charles Stark Draper Lab) see especially fig 15 and column 5, lines 16-27	1-3,5 at least

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

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